

**To:** Madigan, Andrea[Madigan.Andrea@epa.gov]; Land, Kelcey[Land.Kelcey@epa.gov]; Sisk, Richard[Sisk.Richard@epa.gov]  
**From:** Ackerman, Joyce  
**Sent:** Thur 8/13/2015 6:31:29 PM  
**Subject:** FW: R 8 Brief Chronology

**From:** Pearson, Janice  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 13, 2015 12:29 PM  
**To:** Ackerman, Joyce  
**Subject:** FW: R 8 Brief Chronology

Joyce-

This is the request we received in Area Command. We have not prepared or released any chronology of events. We will look to the region. Please share with Area Command if you do get something that can be released in case we get other requests.

-Janice

**Janice A. Pearson**  
**UST, Solid Waste and PCB Unit Chief**  
**Resource Conservation and Recovery Program**  
**US EPA, Region 8, 8P-R**  
**1595 Wynkoop**  
**Denver, CO 80202-2466**  
**Phone: (303) 312-6354**  
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**email: pearson.janice@epa.gov**

**From:** Rothery, Deirdre  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 13, 2015 6:55 AM  
**To:** Pearson, Janice  
**Cc:** R8 Documentation Unit Leader  
**Subject:** FW: R 8 Brief Chronology

Janice,

Assuming this is something AC would handle.

Dee

**From:** Cristiano, Gina  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 12, 2015 7:16 PM  
**To:** Card, Joan  
**Cc:** Russo, Rebecca; Williams, Laura; Rothery, Deirdre; Lloyd, Lisa  
**Subject:** Re: R 8 Brief Chronology

In ICS, planning section handles preparation of the IAP (incident action plan, which details the next day's work)...Deirdre Rothery is the Planning Section Chief so I would suggest her or Lisa Lloyd, the Situation Unit Leader. I have cc'd both. Thanks, G

Sent from my iPhone

On Aug 12, 2015, at 6:45 PM, Card, Joan <[Card.Joan@epa.gov](mailto:Card.Joan@epa.gov)> wrote:

We will need to find someone to work on it at UC. We need org charts now.

Gina, Laura, how do we access the UC for help with these kinds of items?

Joan

**From:** Russo, Rebecca  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 12, 2015 6:43 PM  
**To:** Card, Joan

**Subject: RE: R 8 Brief Chronology**

From today's briefing, the Energy and Commerce Committee wants a timeline of the 48 hours directly following the release regarding who was notified and when – specifically downstream users, state governments and local governments.

Rebecca A. Russo

Region 8 Congressional and Intergovernmental Liaison

Office: 303-312-6757

Cell: 303-204-1930

**From:** Card, Joan  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 12, 2015 6:42 PM  
**To:** Russo, Rebecca  
**Subject:** RE: R 8 Brief Chronology

This was for internal use. I'm not finalizing a time line. What is the specific task and for whom?

**From:** Russo, Rebecca  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 12, 2015 6:39 PM  
**To:** Card, Joan  
**Subject:** RE: R 8 Brief Chronology

When we get a finalized timeline, can you get it to me so I can get it to Caroline Levine, HQ?

Thanks.

Rebecca A. Russo

Region 8 Congressional and Intergovernmental Liaison

Office: 303-312-6757

Cell: 303-204-1930

**From:** Card, Joan  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 12, 2015 2:43 PM  
**To:** Russo, Rebecca  
**Subject:** FW: R 8 Brief Chronology

Some help with timelines.

**From:** Card, Joan  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 12, 2015 9:50 AM  
**To:** Fritz, Matthew; Gray, David  
**Cc:** McGrath, Shaun; Curry, Ron; Coleman, Sam  
**Subject:** RE: R 8 Brief Chronology

Region 8 Resources

Denver 13 + 2 contractors

Durango 23 + 12 contractors

Lab 8 + 7 contractors

Coast Guard 10

ERT 1

Total 76

**From:** Card, Joan  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 12, 2015 8:51 AM  
**To:** Fritz, Matthew; Gray, David  
**Cc:** McGrath, Shaun; Curry, Ron; Coleman, Sam  
**Subject:** RE: R 8 Brief Chronology

Sorry Matt. Important correction in red—when we started providing alternate water.

**From:** Card, Joan  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 12, 2015 8:42 AM  
**To:** Fritz, Matthew; Gray, David  
**Cc:** McGrath, Shaun; Curry, Ron; Coleman, Sam  
**Subject:** R 8 Brief Chronology

### August 5

10:30 a.m. Blowout occurred. Safety secured and pH and metals sampling begins.

On site OSC make calls to downstream (Silverton and Durango) local contacts

In the afternoon, OSC on site notified R8 duty officer at Denver Operation Center. Initial reports were that it was discharging into a virtually dead creek, and anticipated impacts were focused on Cement Creek and town of Silverton.

R8 ARA notified mayor of Silverton; and San Juan County officials. EOC notified CO Dept. of Health and Environment.

CDPHE issued notice to Drinking Water Systems downstream.

Began issuing daily statements on the event.

**August 6**

Began constructing treatment system at mine.

In the morning, R8 management began to deploy resources beginning to recognize the significance of the release.

RA contacted Governor's Office, DNR Director, CDPHE Director of Environment, mayor of Durango, LaPlata County Commissioner, and EPA HQ (DRA and CoS).

Sr. Policy Advisor notified R6 DRA.

R8 deployed Incident Commander and a Public Information Officer.

START was deployed.

Began coordination with ATSDR

We began to set up R8 Golden lab and ESAT.

**August 7**

Mine discharge treatment and monitoring begins

In the morning, EPA's ASPECT aircraft begins flyovers.

Issued a health statement on pH

Unified Command established

Sen. Bennet and Sen. Gardner visited Durango Incident Command Center.

R8 RA and Director of Emergency Response flew to Durango early morning to meet with elected officials, Sheriff Smith, and staff from County, City and S. Ute Tribe. In the afternoon, the RA hosted a public meeting, attended by an estimated 250 people, to describe the blowout, EPA's response, and field questions. RA also held a media availability.

Contracted with a commercial lab in Durango.

Alternative sources of drinking and stock water begin to be provided to affected well owners and well sampling begins

## **August 8**

Began daily calls to Congressional offices, state and tribal officials, and local elected officials; began daily media calls.

Began sole-source contracting with La Plata County.

Released summary select metals data report spike and evidence of sharp trend to prevent conditions in Cement Creek and upper Animas locations.

Released detailed data table of Aug 5 and 6 results

### **August 9**

RA flew back to Durango with ARA

Announced Claims process

Updated discharge estimate to 3 mg

### **August 10**

Large Region 8 response team deployed to Durango

### **August 11**

Established Area Commander, Region 8's David Ostrander, and his PIO, Melissa Harrison

Unified Command in place and building

**From:** Fritz, Matthew  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 12, 2015 6:26 AM  
**To:** Card, Joan; Gray, David  
**Cc:** McGrath, Shaun; Curry, Ron; Coleman, Sam  
**Subject:** RE: chronology

Joan,

Thanks. I am just looking for a pretty straight-forward sequencing of events – really high-level – when the release happened, when we started to notify folks – when we mobilized – pretty basis – for the boss, for now.

**From:** Card, Joan  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 12, 2015 8:23 AM  
**To:** Gray, David  
**Cc:** Fritz, Matthew; McGrath, Shaun; Curry, Ron; Coleman, Sam  
**Subject:** Re: chronology

David, the detailed chronology I referred to is the Region 8 Administrative Record for FOIA and other purposes. I think this one that Matt is building with all of us will serve communication purposes better.

Joan Card

Senior Policy Advisor

Region 8

Sent from my EPA iPhone

On Aug 12, 2015, at 6:11 AM, Gray, David <[gray.david@epa.gov](mailto:gray.david@epa.gov)> wrote:

Great Joan – send it to us and we can incorporate NM

**From:** Card, Joan

**Sent:** Wednesday, August 12, 2015 6:30 AM

**To:** Fritz, Matthew

**Cc:** McGrath, Shaun; Curry, Ron; Coleman, Sam; Gray, David

**Subject:** Re: chronology

Matt: we have a team developing a detailed chronology. Are you asking for public statement about chronology or do you need it for your work? If so, when do you need it so I can instruct the team accordingly.

Joan Card

Senior Policy Advisor

Region 8

Sent from my EPA iPhone

On Aug 12, 2015, at 4:07 AM, Fritz, Matthew <[Fritz.Matthew@epa.gov](mailto:Fritz.Matthew@epa.gov)> wrote:

Good morning everyone,

Do we have a tight chronology of events? This just has to be the major items or actions.

For example:

August ...- release occurred as EPA/contractor was working at the site

August ...EPA notified...

(notification sequence would be helpful)

August....Unified Command was established

Summarize: as of August...### samples have been collected from ### locations along both the San Juan and Animas River.

Those type of highlights.

Thanks.